



Through the RCCIP, Houston County's Core Team has identified five (5) goals to address child care challenges. Below is a list of goals that the team focused efforts on within the implementation phase, along with project updates as provided by the core team lead upon the sunset of this process.

GOALS

**To ensure the community's goals remain authentic, little to no content edits were made in the creation of this summary.*



SMART Goal:

Goal 1: Identify within 6 months facilities available for additional slots such as pod, centers, and home providers in facilities

Project Team Members: Allison Wagner, Shelley Ellingson, Ty Haupt, Jean Kinneberg, Karen Kohlmeyer

Goal Update: Core team members worked with local realtors to develop a list of possible available facilities. The team continues to update and use the list when there is an inquiry for a facility need for a potential child care program.



SMART Goal:

Goal 2: In the next year, develop biannual "Super Saturday" training tracks for required continuing education for home and center providers, including how to offset provider costs.

Project Team Members: Teala Amberg, Dawn Felten, Brenda Beckman, Gretchen Juan, Larry Kirch, John Puggleasa, Sue Thesing, Allison Wager, and Licensed Daycare Association Providers

Goal Update: Additional trainings have been completed and future trainings are in process of being setup. Classes have been paid for and are going well. Providers are grateful, and youth interested in the field have also been attending classes when we have had room. ARPA dollars will continue to be used to pay for classes for at least the next three years.



SMART Goal:

Goal 3: Implement a child care appreciation program countywide within 6 months.

Project Team Members: Allison Wagner, Jean Kinneberg, Shelley Ellingson, Karen Kohlmeyer, Ty Haupt

Goal Update: Core team received money from the Ascentek foundation. Jean and Shelley from the core team gave appreciation baskets to each provider in Houston County and baskets were delivered. Providers sent emails and thank you's to the core team, they appreciated the baskets. The core team plans to do it again in the future.



SMART Goal:

Goal 4: In the next year, interest at least 10-15 individuals in a pathway to child care entrepreneurship.

Project Team Members: John Pogleasa, Dee Slinde, Dawn Felten, MaryAnne Smith, Beth Theede, Workforce Development, Inc., Houston County High School Students

Goal Update: Houston County is offering classes and created a grant program with some of the funds allocated, to support new and existing providers. They continue to offer classes and are working with schools and the BCC to create workforce pipelines. So far, the grant program has preserved 121 slots and created at least 10 new slots. The awareness of this program has created new interest.



SMART Goal:

Goal 5: Create a website or webpage for child care – for the public, for new providers, and for current providers. Within 6 months, do research, and within one year put in place said website.

Project Team Members: Shelley Ellingson, Karen Kohlmeyer, Chris Hardie, Ty Haupt, Jean Kinneberg, Allison Wagner

Goal Update: The Houston County website currently houses and provides this information. It is updated as the core team learns about new opportunities, resources, etc.

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Houston County is a rural area with a long history of community partnership in bringing needed services to the area. Houston County has a committed Core Team of individuals who are heavily invested in the child care landscape of their community. First Children's Finance recommends that the Core Team engage in the following activities:

1

Always run financials before committing to a project – look for a broad base of support. Having an accurate understanding of enrolment numbers, staffing needs, and tuition rates are needed to create sustainability in the current child care climate.

First Children's Finance offers financial modelling and financial analysis consultations.

2

Continue to engage the community in this project.

Community investment to support new and existing child care businesses are critical to maintaining quality programs.

3

Continue to involve and support existing providers.

Ongoing support to all types of existing child care in the area should be considered to retain the existing providers. Efforts should be made to ensure current child care providers continue to feel supported and have access to resources they need to stay in the field.

4

Remain committed to this process and flexible to adjust your plan.

Roadblocks will happen. This does not mean that SMART goals need to be rewritten. Regroup to identify any new action steps that need to be created to keep your ideas and solutions moving forward. As long as you are able and have committed taskforce members, keep building, supporting, and growing child care in your local area.

For More Information:

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Houston County CSAP

Visit ruralchildcare.org/communityinformation to view all action plans